I hereby certification this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

TOWNSEND AND POWSEND AND CREW LLF

By:_

TECH CENTER 16002900 IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

HAYDOCK, et al.

Application No.: 09/830,976

Filed: August 17, 2001

For: METHODS FOR PREVENTING CROSS-CONTAMINATION IN SOLID

SUPPORT-BASED ASSAYS

Examiner:

Cynthia B. Wilder

PATENT

Art Unit:

1637

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 13, 2003, please enter the following amendments and remarks. A petition for an extension of time and the appropriate fees accompany this amendment.

> Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this Amendment. Remarks begin on page 8 of this Amendment.